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Abstract of the Disclosure

A start of an input speech signal is detected during presentation of an output audio signal and an input start time, relative to the output audio signal, is determined. The input start time is then provided for use in responding to the input speech signal. In another embodiment, the output audio signal has a corresponding identification. When the input speech signal is detected during presentation of the output audio signal, the identification of the output audio signal is provided for use in responding to the input speech signal. Information signals comprising data and/or control signals are provided in response to at least the contextual information provided, i.e., the input start time and/or the identification of the output audio signal. In this manner, the present invention accurately establishes a context of an input speech signal relative to an output audio signal regardless of the delay characteristics of the underlying communication system.

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